

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/30/04

CONFERENCE REPORT

SB 252 (BRATER)

SB 252 would increase the permit fees paid by dischargers of storm water. The bill would also require wastewater discharge permit holders to submit an application fee and pay an annual permit fee based in part on EPA designations, with separate levels for municipal facilities. This would increase the fees paid by the city of Detroit by 400% (from \$66,000 to \$213,000).

• The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 252 [RC 163: 34 yes, 4 no].

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 432 (Hammerstrom)

SB 432 would establish procedures regarding voter registration requirements, and draws in federal terms of items needed for registration.

- Hammerstrom 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. Clarified disability voting requirements.
- Hammerstrom 2 (8 amends) was adopted [no RC].
- Hammerstrom 3 (2 amends) was adopted [no RC]. Technical change.
- Hammerstrom 4 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 432, <u>as amended by the Senate</u> [RC 164: 22 yes, 16 no (DEMS)]. JACOBS: This bill is not about meeting federal requirements in order to receive federal funding. Immediate Effect was not given to the bill.

SB 635 (Hammerstrom)

SB 635 would allow for an individual under 60 yrs. to be admitted to "home for the aged" if it is determined to be in the best interest of the individual by: the individual, the individual's guardian or representative, the individual's physician and the owner, operator or governing body of the home. Also, the bill was amended in the House to state that the patients needs can be met and that the new resident will be compatible with other residents.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 635 [RC 178: 37 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

SB 702 (Hammerstrom)

SB 702 would allow the temporary placement of children with prospective adoptive parents who do not reside in Michigan.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 702 [RC 179: 38 yes, 0 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1062 (Johnson)

Community Colleges budget

The budget for community colleges is funded at the Governors recommendation. \$285,097,000 is appropriated in the circumstance that community colleges keep tuition increases below inflation. If (in-district) tuition increases are not kept below inflation than community colleges will be penalized 3% and a total of \$268,710,200 will be appropriated.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1062 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 1062 passed [RC 165: 37 yes, 0 no].

SB 1063 (Johnson)

Community Health budget

The Senate subcommittee budget was \$498,170,000 GF/GP over the Executive budget. This was due to the subcommittee not taking a position on the \$513,400,000 in tobacco and estate tax revenue included as Restricted revenue in the Executive budget. In terms of GF/GP and GF/GP equivalent funding, the Senate subcommittee budget was \$15,330,000 GF/GP under the Executive.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- CHERRY 1A-D were withdrawn.
- BASHAM 1E (10 amends) was defeated [no RC].
- Hardiman 1F (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1063 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- CHERRY 1 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 166: 17 yes, 21 no (GOP)]. This would have provided a pay increase for nursing home workers.
- CHERRY 2 (13 amends) was defeated [RC 167: 17 yes, 21 no (GOP)]. This would have added \$15 million for the Healthy Michigan Fund.
- CHERRY 3 (11 amends) was defeated [RC 168: 17 yes, 21 no (GOP)]. This would have provided \$5 million in additional funding for hospitals which provide significant Medicaid services.
- SB 1063 passed [RC 169: 24 yes, 14 no]. CHERRY: This budget is not fiscally responsible (it has a \$500 million hole in funding) and does not adequately meet the health care needs of our state.

SB 1066 (Johnson)

Environmental Quality budget

The Committee's recommendation has a difference of (\$142,200) Gross and (\$2,142,300) GF/GP from the Governor's recommendation. Travel was cut by 50% for the department which amounts to a \$617,300 cut. This will severely hamper compliance and enforcement activities. The subcommittee included a \$1.3 million fund shift from GF to fund air emission fees. The department contends that this shift is illegal and will have a dramatic effect on the programs run under the Air Quality Division. \$1.3 mill is moved from GF/GP to cover air emission fees but the revenue source will restrict the activities of the division including permitting for New Source Review and statewide air quality testing.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- BRATER 1A (2 amends) was withdrawn.
- McManus 1B (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This limited travel expense reimbursements.
- McManus 1C (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1066 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- BASHAM 1 (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This removed language creating a pilot project on the effectiveness of fluridone at Higgins Lake.
- BRATER 2 (2 amends) was defeated [RC 171: 16 yes, 22 no (GOP)]. This would have prevented use of \$1.2 million in federal clean air funds on non-clear air programs.
- SB 1066 passed [RC 172: 31 yes, 7 no].

SB 1068 (Johnson)

Natural Resources budget

The Committee's recommendation has a difference of (\$390,700) Gross and (\$603,000) GF/GP from the Governor's recommendation. The full appropriations committee replaces\d the travel funding cuts 44% so that the department will take a 4% travel cut. The subcommittee replaced \$500,000 in Marine Safety Grants that were removed by the Governor due to declining revenue. The revenue will come from the MI State Waterways Fund. The subcommittee removed \$500,000 in Bovine TB research. According to McManus, three commissioners came to her office and told her that the research work was done and the money wasn't necessary. The remaining \$1.5 million is appropriated for testing. The subcommittee added \$100,000 for the Sebewaing Harbor Commission Flood Control.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated [no RC].
- McManus 2 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- SB 1068 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 1068 passed [RC 170: 37 yes, 1 no (Patterson)].

SB 1073 (Kuipers)

SB 1073 would clarify the language on continuing education for superintendents, principals, assistant principals, or other administrator. The bill requires that administrators complete continuing education within five years of initial employment and each subsequent five-year period.

Support: Department of Education, Michigan Association of School Boards, Michigan Association of School Administrators, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals.

• SB 1073 passed [RC 181: 38 yes, 0 no].

HB 4160 (Sheen)

HB 4160 would prohibit any local units of government from expanding "living wage laws" requiring all businesses within a city's borders to pay wages higher than the state's current minimum wage (\$5.15).

Support: MI Restaurant Assn., Small Business Assn. of MI, National Federation of Independent Businesses, MMA, MI Retailers Assn., MI Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Regional Chamber, Grand Rapids Regional Chamber, Lansing Chamber of Commerce.

Oppose: MI Township Assn., MI State AFL-CIO, Metro-Detroit AFL-CIO, Jobs for Justice, IBEW, Ypsilanti Township, City of Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co. Exec. Offices, Pittsfield Charter Twp., City of Eastpointe, MLHS, MI State Bldg. & Construction Trades, MI Catholic Conference, UAW, City of Ferndale, City of Detroit.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted [no RC].
- SCHAUER 1A (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would protect prevailing wages.
- SCHAUER 1B (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- SCHAUER 1C (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. This would protect existing living wages.
- SCHAUER 1D (1 amend) was withdrawn.
- SCHAUER 1E (1 amend) was withdrawn. This would protect existing living wages.
- SCHAUER 1F (1 amend) was defeated [no RC]. Tie-bar to bill to increase the state minimum wage.
- SCHAUER 1G (1 amend) was defeated [no RC].
- Jelinek 1H (1 amend) was adopted [no RC].
- Allen II (1 amend) was adopted [no RC]. This protected existing living wages.
- HB 4160 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SCHAUER 1 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 173: 18 yes, 20 no (GOP). This would have protected prevailing wages.
- SCHAUER 2 (1 amend) was withdrawn [RC]. This was adopted as amendment Schauer 1B.
- SCHAUER 3 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 174: 16 yes, 22 no (GOP)]. This would have protected existing living wages.
- SCHAUER 4 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 175: 16 yes, 22 no (GOP)]. This would have tie-barred the bill to HB 4165 a MINORE bill to increase the state minimum wage to \$6.15 (over two years) and to index it to the inflation rate.
- SCHAUER 5 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 176: 16 yes, 22 no (GOP)]. This would have tied the state minimum wage to the federal minimum wage. If the federal wage increased, then the state minimum wage would also increase.

• HB 4160 passed with IE [RC 177: 22 yes (GOP), 16 no (DEMS)]. SCHAUER/BASHAM: This bill is yet another attempt to keep wages low for workers. It is also an attack on local control.

HB 5344 (HARDMAN)

HB 5344 would allow 11 new housing units in Detroit (that were inadvertently left out of the developer's application for a Neighborhood Enterprise Zone certificate) to qualify for the tax abatement.

• HB 5344 passed with IE [RC 180: 38 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 222 (Garcia)

SB 222 would require the Department of Education to develop and make available to school districts a model character education program. School districts are then encouraged to provide the program to students. The substitute makes specific reference the Michigan model as well as two other character education programs, character counts and character first! Education series. It should be noted that the Department of Education already has a model program developed that it makes available to schools in Michigan.

- Committee 1 (S-4) was adopted [no RC].
- SCHAUER 1A (1 amend) was defeated [RC]. Character Unlimited Program.
- SB 222 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 5670 (Pappageorge)

HB 5670 would give the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) 15 session days, rather than 21 calendar days, to consider a proposed rule and object to it, and allow JCAR to waive the remaining session days. This is part of the deal worked out with regard to Administrative rule making and SB 252.

• HB 5670 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.